



## Wallpaper in the Lincoln Home



*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper drawing*

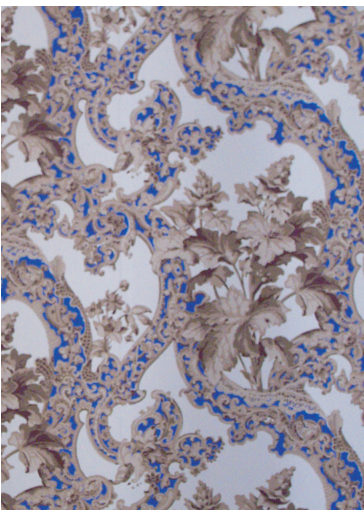
When the Lincoln Home was restored in 1987-88, research was conducted to find the most accurate look for the rooms, including the wallpaper. With the exception of the Lincoln bedroom, original wallcoverings were not found on the walls, so researchers looked to two documents, a photograph taken of the back parlor on the day of Lincoln's funeral in 1865, and the drawings from *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, for clues.

### Early Wallpaper

In the 1700s and early 1800s, wallpaper was printed using sections of paper pasted together, laid flat on tables and painted with a ground color. Wooden blocks were then used to print the pattern - one block for each color and part of the pattern, like a stencil in reverse. French, Chinese, and

English wallpapers were popular, although Chinese papers were not available until after the Revolutionary War. American papers generally had simple designs or stripes with one or two colors and were considered "common papers."

### Paper changes in America



Pattern in Lincoln Bedroom

In 1799, a machine was invented to produce continuous rolls of paper. By 1839 cylindrical printing was available, which allowed patterns to be cut on a cylinder and rolled over the wallpaper instead of using wood blocks to stamp a pattern on the paper. Machine printed wallpaper then became the norm instead of the exception in middle and upper class homes like the Lincoln Home.

Machine production of wallpaper had an impact on the product itself as well as on the appearance of American interiors. The circumference of the printing roller restricted the size of the repeat, and because the colors were thinner in machine printing, the designs possessed a

different visual effect. In addition, because paper width became standardized, and machines could produce greater quantities of wallpaper, decorating with wallpaper became less expensive. The latest styles were as readily available to consumers in rural county stores as they were in the large wallpaper warehouses in urban areas.

Books and magazines, including Andrew Jackson Downing's *Victorian Cottage Residences* (published in 1842), promoted the use of wallpapers and suggested colors and patterns for certain rooms. By the middle of the nineteenth century, most patterns were French imports or copies of French styles.

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## Reproduction Wallpapers in the Lincoln Home

### *Front Hall*

**Paper:** "Stanton House Back Bedroom", 1850-60, American, from Elizabeth Cady Stanton House, Seneca Falls, NY. Reproduced by Scalamandre' (New York)

**Border:** "Stanton House Back Bedroom"-green, 1850-60, American, see above for source.

### *Parlors*

**Paper:** "Lincoln's Parlor", 1850-60, French, from Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. Reproduced by Mt. Diablo Prints (Benicia, CA)

**Border:** "Locust Grove", 1850-60, English, from Young-Morse House, Poughkeepsie, NY. Reproduced by Scalamandre' (New York)

### *Dining Room*

**Paper:** "Gallier House Parlor", 1840-50, French, from Waterhouse archives. Reproduced by Waterhouse Wallhangings (Boston)

**Border:** "Locust Grove", see Parlor border for source

### *Sitting Room*

**Paper:** "Russian Bishop's House-Guest Room", ca. 1842, from Russian Bishop's House, Sitka, AK. Reproduced by Scalamandre' (New York)

**Border:** "Russian Bishop's House-Guest Room", see above for source.

### *Guest Room*

**Paper:** "Russian Bishop's House-Study", 1850-60, American, see Sitting Room for source.

**Border:** "Rope", 1850-60, English or American, from Victorian Society in America. Reproduced by Schumacher (New York)

### *Lincoln Rooms*

**Paper:** "Lincoln's Bedroom", 1850-60, French, from Lincoln Home National Historic Site. Reproduced by Mt. Diablo Prints (Benicia, CA)

**Border:** "Stanton House Back Bedroom border"-blue (custom color), see Front Hall for source.

### *Boy's Room*

**Paper:** "Grevenberg Lattice" (custom color), ca. 1860, American, from Grevenberg House, Franklin, LA. Reproduced by Mt. Diablo Prints (Benicia, CA)

**Border:** "Locust Grove" (top ½ only), see Parlor border for source.

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## Company Information

### Scalamandre'

<http://www.buyhomefurnishings.com>

### Mt. Diablo Prints

<http://www.carterandco.com>

### Waterhouse Wallhangings

<http://www.wallpaperinstaller.com/waterhouse.html>